

# President's Policy on U-2 Is Questioned by Fulbright

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WASHINGTON, May 29—Senator J. William Fulbright questioned today the wisdom of President Eisenhower's taking responsibility for the U-2 flights over the Soviet Union on May 1. "Throughout history no chief of state has assumed the responsibility for espionage," said the Arkansas Democrat, who is chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

He spoke on the National Broadcasting Company's "Meet the Press" television program. Mr. Fulbright said Secretary of State Christian A. Herter had suggested the statement in which, the Senator said, the United States Government "confessed all." But it was approved "as a result of consultation with the President, who at the time was at Gettysburg," he said.

## Contention of Theft Backed

Senator Fulbright said that even a contention that the plane had been "stolen by the Russians" might have been better than the President's admission.

Asked whether a refusal by the President to accept responsibility would not have put the blame on Allen W. Dulles, director of the Central Intelligence Agency, the Senator indicated that that was one of the various alternatives he thought possible.

Even if the statement did involve Mr. Dulles, Senator Fulbright said, such an alternative move would not have involved the whole United States.

The Foreign Relations Committee heard testimony by Secretary Herter last Friday. It will hear Mr. Dulles Tuesday.

The case concerns the Soviet Union's downing of a United States U-2 reconnaissance aircraft just before the summit conference, which Premier Khrushchev called the reprieve for his refusal to negotiate at the conference.

## 'Excuse' for Khrushchev

Mr. Fulbright was asked whether he agreed with Adlai E. Stevenson that President Eisenhower had handed Premier Khrushchev a "cowbar" with which to wreck the summit conference. The Senator said he did not agree.

on statements of private individuals." But he added that the U-2 incident had certainly given Premier Khrushchev a "good excuse."

Senator Fulbright and Senator Lyndon B. Johnson of Texas, majority leader, have attempted to shape a particular representation of the U-2 incident and the subsequent failure of the summit conference.

One of the "terrible things" that might happen in this country, Mr. Fulbright said, would be an election controversy including "soft on communism" charges growing out of the U-2 affair.

With such charges, the Senator said, both parties might find themselves in "frozen positions" regarding the Soviet Union.

## Asks Contact with Moscow

The Senator observed that Premier Khrushchev's recent statements had been "unexpectedly mild." He emphasized the importance of maintaining some form of communication with the Soviet Union.

In reply to other questions, Mr. Fulbright said he did not think the heads of government would or should meet again soon. He said he agreed with Senator Mike Mansfield, Democrat of Montana, that heads of government should come together not to negotiate but to rectify.

Mr. Fulbright said he could see no reason why President Eisenhower should not go to Japan unless there were indications "he won't get a proper reception." While such visits "won't do anything serious in the way of negotiation," he said, they do some good.